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**"CONGRESSMAN BOYD RESPONDS TO APPELLATE COURT RULING  
THAT PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL "**

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Boyd (D-North Florida) released the following statement responding to a federal appeals court ruling in San Francisco, CA stating that the Pledge of Allegiance is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion because of the phrase "under God", and that it cannot be recited in schools.

"There are a lot of things we as a Nation are currently experiencing together. We are experiencing a war on terrorism. We are experiencing the greatest renewal of patriotism we have seen in generations. We are about to celebrate, together, the 226th birthday of this great nation. We are not, however, about to sit back and accept the kind of blatant lack of respect for tradition and patriotism that was shown today with this ruling.

Our children stand with pride every morning in their classrooms and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and in doing so, they are learning each day about the values and freedoms that this country was founded on. Why would anyone attempt to take that valuable lesson away from our children? I was deeply disappointed in hearing about this outrageous decision."